

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing an e-mail system comprising:

providing a server connected to a network;

5 inputting a message from a sender into said server to be sent as e-mail to at least one recipient mail box on said network;

enhancing said e-mail message with a self-executing programmable enhancement; and

delivering said e-mail over said network to said at least one recipient mail box.

10 2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing a plurality of e-mail boxes on said server assigned to a plurality of members for the receipt of e-mail addressed to said members at said server.

15 3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising providing a menu listing a plurality of said self-executing programmable enhancements.

4. A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising member services provided for said plurality of members.

20 5. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein said member services includes the ability to add and edit member account information.

25 6. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein said member services includes the ability to concentrate e-mail messages on said server for a member from other e-mail boxes on said network that are assigned to said member.

7. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein said member servers includes the ability to add and edit address list information.

8. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein said member services includes the ability to add and edit distribution list information.

9. A method as recited in claim 4 wherein said members services includes the ability to send videomail.

10. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said network is a TCP/IP protocol network, and wherein said self-executing programmable enhancement includes HTML.

11. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said HTML includes at least one Java Applet or the like.

12. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said HTML includes a plurality of web pages.

13. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said plurality of web pages comprise at least a portion of a web site that has been pushed to said at least one recipient

14. A method as recited in claim 11 wherein said Applet is operative to open a Java window or the like.

15. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein said Java window or the like comprises a Web Browser capable of accessing web pages on said network.

16. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein said Java window or the like provides at least one of an audio and visual link to a recorded message on said server.

17. A method for providing an e-mail service comprising:

providing a website capable of sending e-mail to at least one recipient mail box;

enhancing a message of a sender with a self-executing programmable enhancement and information of an advertising nature to create an enhanced e-mail message; and

e-mailing said enhanced e-mail message to said at least one recipient mail box.

18. A method for providing an e-mail service as recited in claim 17 wherein said information of an advertising nature includes at least one advertising banner.

19. A method for providing an e-mail service as recited in claim 17 wherein said information of an advertising nature includes at least one button providing a hyperlink to an advertiser's web site.

20. A method for providing an e-mail service as recited in claim 17 wherein said self-executing programmable enhancement is capable of interactivity with a recipient of said enhanced e-mail.

21. An e-mail system comprising:

a server coupled to a wide area network;

a web site hosted by said server that is capable of at least temporarily storing a message to be sent as e-mail over said wide area network to at least one recipient mail box, said web site providing at least one process for enhancing said message with a self-executing programmable enhancement and information of an advertising nature to create an enhanced e-mail message, and for e-mailing said enhanced e-mail message to said at least one recipient mail box.

22. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said web site further includes at least one mail box associated with at least one member, whereby said member may receive e-mail in said mail box.

5

23. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said self-executing programmable enhancement interacts with said message.

24. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 further comprising at least one of an audio and a visual recording stored on said server that is adapted to be automatically played upon an opening of said enhanced e-mail message.

25. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 further comprising pushing at least a portion of a web site to a recipient as a part of said enhanced e-mail message.

26. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said enhanced e-mail message includes a network browser.

28. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said information of an advertising nature includes at least one advertising banner.

29. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said information of an advertising nature includes at least one button providing a hyperlink to an advertiser web site.

30. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said information of an advertising nature is a part of said self-executing programmable enhancement.

31. An e-mail system as recited in claim 21 wherein said enhanced e-mail message is capable of interactivity with a recipient of said enhanced e-mail message.

32. An e-mail system as recited in claim 31 wherein said enhanced e-mail message
5 may be forwarded by a forwarding recipient to another recipient's mail box with input from the forwarding recipient.

NEO1P026